

Organization conducted a flight test over the Pacific. Unfortunately, a missile anomaly occurred which had nothing to do with the concept being tested. The booster simply did not separate from the kill vehicle and, therefore, the kill vehicle was not freed so that it could function.

Opponents of a National Missile Defense System thus have no basis for saying we should abandon our efforts. This was only the third of 19 planned tests. Successes and failures are to be expected as we perfect any defense system. This was not a concept failure.

Mr. Speaker, developing a missile defense system is one of the most civilized things we can do. When deployed, and God forbid, we need to use it, it only protects. It protects the people we love and does not destroy our enemy. This is the ultimate in defense.

Mr. Speaker, the so-called rogue nations are developing their capabilities to attack our people. As outlined by the Constitution, we, in Congress, have the obligation to provide for the defense of this country. We must go forward. We should not yield to political pressures. We must develop the National Missile Defense System.

U.S. ATTACKED BY KOFI ANNAN AT NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, in this year's commencement speech at Notre Dame, Kofi Annan, the head of the United Nations, bitterly attacked the United States.

He said the U.S. was one of the "least generous" Nations in helping the world's poor. Actually, the exact opposite is true. No nation on the face of this Earth has even come close to the U.S. in what it has given to poor people around the world.

Mr. Annan called the U.S. "shameful." Actually, U.S. taxpayers pay one-fourth of all U.N. costs and most of the costs of the so-called U.N. peace-keeping missions.

Mr. Speaker, most of our tax money for the U.N. is wasted to pay high salaries to U.N. bureaucrats who pay no Federal income taxes.

Interestingly, Mr. Annan has refused to release a copy of his financial disclosure as required by law or a copy of his own personal charitable giving for the past 5 years as requested by the Freedom Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Annan is the one who should be ashamed, not U.S. taxpayers.

SKYROCKETING GASOLINE PRICES

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is a great time of year to vacation in beautiful Colorado, but gas prices are still high. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson is on record saying that the Clinton-Gore administration was "caught napping" on the issue of skyrocketing gasoline prices.

Because of the administration's failed energy policies and inattention, Americans are being forced to pay outrageous prices at the gas pump, some cases \$2.35 a gallon.

We all know how dangerous it can be when a driver falls asleep at the wheel, and now we can see how dangerous it is when an entire administration falls asleep at the wheel.

While this administration was napping, domestic oil production decreased to 17 percent, and this increased dependence on foreign oil has helped put us to this current predicament.

Perhaps, Congress should start a caffeine IV for Secretary Richardson and the other Rip Van Winkles over at the White House who are responsible for this policy disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Clinton-Gore administration to wake up. The slumber party is over. Americans are tired of getting gored at the pump.

ACCUSATIONS OF A "DO NOTHING CONGRESS"

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, many of our friends in the Democrat party have been spending a lot of time lately accusing this of being a do nothing Congress, and I guess coming from a Democrat that is a tremendous compliment.

Do you know what it means when they accuse us of doing nothing? It means we are not raising taxes, that means we are not spending enough of the surplus. We have not raided the Social Security surplus. We are not making government regulations burdensome enough.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my friends I consider the definition of "doing nothing" as a badge of honor. And do you know why? Because my Democrat friends and the Vice President have a funny definition of accomplishments.

They do not consider it an accomplishment to end the unfair penalty on married couples. They do not consider it an accomplishment to end the earnings limit for working seniors. They do not consider it an accomplishment to say that the Federal Government or the IRS should not take half your farm when you die, half of your business when you die.

They do not consider it an accomplishment to make prescription drugs available and affordable to our senior citizens in the country. This is what we have done over the last several months.

Democrats may not consider these things to be accomplishments, but millions of Americans who work every day, get up, they pay their taxes.

DEATH TAX

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the House passed a repeal of the death tax last month. We will continue to work to see that this unfair tax is repealed.

The American dream is about the opportunity of every citizen to build a better future for themselves and their children through hard work and personal initiative. It means building your own business, pouring your own sweat into a small farm to turn a profit, saving each day so you can leave something to your family.

Yet it is these Americans who are working so hard, playing the rules and paying taxes who, upon their death, become the victims of a tax that discounts their dedication, punishes their entrepreneurship, and denies their dying wishes.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of this death tax, only one-third of all small businesses and family farms are passed on after the first generation. This is not right. Where is the logic?

Why does the government have to grab someone's life savings out of their hands once they die? It is time we eliminate the death tax and reinvest in America, so the dreams and values of these folks can be carried on to future generations. We need to make sure that death tax gets buried.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 354, nays 50, answered "present" 1, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 386]

YEAS—354

Abercrombie
Allen

Andrews
Armey

Baca
Bachus